



# THE CHURCH MOUSE

First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Georgetown, KY 40324

November 2023. Vol. 17 No. 11

## *Pastor's Corner*

Psalm 138

I give You thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing Your praise;  
I bow down toward Your holy temple,  
and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and your  
faithfulness,  
for You have exalted above all things  
Your name and Your Word.

On the day I called, You answered me;  
my strength of soul You increased.

All the kings of the earth shall give You thanks, O LORD,  
for they have heard the words of Your mouth,  
and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

For though the LORD is high, He regards the lowly,  
but the haughty He knows from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life;  
You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies,  
and Your right hand delivers me.

The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me;  
Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of Your hands.



We find ourselves "in the midst of trouble" as Thanksgiving approaches, and our prayers for a speedy and just end to war-torn areas in our world have been met with the consistent "wait" answer. Under the stress of problems and politics, we are hard pressed to find things to be thankful for. But this psalmist still was thankful: thankful that his life was spared, that the strength of his life increased, that God's Name and God's Word are exalted, and even the kings of the earth will bring their thanksgiving to God. Why? Because in times of trouble, we have to face this truth: we are not in control. Wealth, power, status, none of these are of much use in the face of problems that are looming so large that we feel helpless. Yet it is God Who is in control, Who looks on the lowly with favor, Who saves our lives and builds us up spiritually, even in times of violence and unrest. We, who know God, have the inside track, that eventually even political rulers will realize: they must turn to God for help. And when God delivers us, even kings and presidents and prime ministers and senators and congressmen and judges will join us in thanksgiving and praise; they will see the undeniable evidence that God's Word is true, and that God's ways are right. Believers will be leading the song that everyone will take up, because of God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

In the meantime, with the psalmist, be assured that God will fulfill His purpose for us, and will not desert us, for we are the work of His hands. So start now, thank God with your whole heart, sing God's praise for His steadfast love and faithfulness, and know that His eye is on you for blessing. Eventually even the politicians will catch on.

Blessings,  
Pastor Elizabeth Stone

**Report from the Session**

**Session has taken the following actions:**

- reviewed membership rolls
- the next stated session meeting will be 11/15/2023 at 5:30 pm

**ATTENDANCE**

**10/01/2023 : in sanctuary, 33**

**10/08/2023 : picnic, 17**

**10/15/2023 : in sanctuary, 36**

**10/25/2023 : in sanctuary, 42**

**COMMUNION**

**Traditional communion will be served during morning worship on 11/05/2023.**

**Traditional communion will be served during morning worship on 12/03/2023.**

**NOTICE:**

**Session has called a congregational meeting for November 19, 2023 immediately following the 11:00 am worship service for the purposes of:**

- hearing the report of the Nominating Committee
- electing two (2) elders for the class of 2025, three (3) congregational representatives to the Nominating Committee for 2024 and one (1) congregational representative to the Personnel Committee for 2024.

**\*\*\*\*\***

**Bible Study**

Join the member –led church-wide Bible Study on Thursdays at 10:30 am via Zoom. The discussion will focus on the book of **Luke**. Here's the Zoom address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82346112262>.

**YOU TUBE**

Our Sunday worship service is transmitted via YouTube and is listed as **First Presbyterian Church Georgetown, KY**.

**MUSIC NOTES**



We welcome anyone who enjoys singing to join the choir for practice on Wednesday evenings at 6:50. We finish at 8:10. See special note concerning Christmas music on page 6.



### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The **Betsy Bradley Circle** will meet at 9:30 am, Monday, November 6. The group will discuss of Lesson 3 in the current Bible Study, in *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*, by the Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir. The Thank Offering will be received.

The **Linda Sharron Circle** will meet Monday, November 6 at 6:30 at the church in the room behind the sanctuary. Looking forward to seeing everyone who can make it.

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*You are invited to a Buckhorn Benefit*



**GATHERING PLACE MISSIONS CONTINUE TO NEED OUR HELP**  
The next collection of supplies for the Gathering Place will be Sunday November 12. There will be containers in the Narthex for supplies for the Gathering Place Mission for Homeless Men and The Gathering Place Mission for Homeless Women and Children— both on Bourbon Street **ONGOING NEEDS:** Paper goods - large and small plates, bowls, napkins, toilet paper and paper towels (These items are the main ones that our church has approved to supply.) Also needed are personal care items and clothing.

### Amen House Wish List



**Your help is still needed to fill 1000 Thanksgiving bags**

Here's What You Can Donate:

**\$15 gift card to Walmart or Kroger for Turkey**

Any or all of the below:

- 1 Corn (16 oz can)
- 1 Green Beans (16 oz. can)
- 1 pkg. Gravy Mix
- 1 Fruit (16 oz. can)
- 1 Cranberry Sauce (16 oz. can)
- 1 Chicken or Vegetable Broth (16 oz. can)
- 1 Stuffing Mix (box)
- 1 Potato Mix (pouch)
- 1 Dessert (Brownie Mix-Box)

**Note: A big thanks to Wiesenberger Mills who donated enough corn bread mixes for all the bags. Donations received at AMEN House during operating hours.**

## ADVENT PLANS



We are looking forward to a very exciting and busy Worship and Fellowship schedule as we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons.

**This Sunday, November 5**, our Worship service will include our annual commemoration of All Saints Day to remember those who have gone on to their heavenly reward during the past year.

**On November 19**, immediately following the Congregational Meeting, we will host a Fellowship luncheon in the Annex. The Worship Committee will provide all food and beverages. All are invited to come share a meal to help launch our Thanksgiving and Christmas festivities.

**On November 26**, you are invited to stay after Worship to help decorate the Sanctuary for Advent.

**December 3** is the first Sunday of Advent. We will finish decorating the Sanctuary with the Hanging of the Greens.

**December 10** is the second Sunday of Advent. Live Wires travel to Woodford Theatre to see Miracle on 34th St.

**December 17** is the third Sunday of Advent.

**December 24** is the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Our morning Worship service will include a Christmas Cantata by our choir. (SEE ANNOUNCEMENT BELOW)

Our evening service on **December 24** at 6:00 p.m. will be a "Lesson and Carols" and will include a candlelight departure as we sing "Silent Night."

Every service during advent will begin with an Advent litany and lighting of the Advent candles.

**If you would like to volunteer to be an Advent litany reader and light the Advent candles, please contact the pastor to get on the schedule.**

### ***MESSAGE FROM OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR***



If you love Christmas music you're going to love, love, love our choral Christmas Presentation "Gloria" on December 24 during the 11:00 service, you will love it even more if you come and sing with us.

Our director encourages anyone who wishes to be a part of the Choir's Christmas presentation this year to join us in choir practice on Wednesday nights at 6:50 to 8:10 in the sanctuary. We are attempting some gorgeous, but difficult music for this year's presentation. We have already started learning the music and would welcome additional voices.

There will only be one Saturday morning practice on December 16, from 10:00 to 11:30.

Please do not wait until the last minute, Start learning the music now and be part of a "glorious" Christmas Celebration.

## CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

### Adult Sunday School Classes

We continue to offer two Adult Sunday School Classes on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

**Adult I** meets in the Church library and uses current books by Christian writers to discuss how modern issues impact our faith journeys. It is currently using a new book, *Twelve Ordinary Men-How the Master Shaped the Disciples for Greatness and What He Wants to Do With You*, by John MacArthur. This class is also open to virtual participation via Zoom. The Zoom meeting ID is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88041635485>.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in what is always a lively discussion. New students would find it easy to jump into the study at any time.

**Adult II** meets in the downstairs classroom and is a more Bible focused class. . The group is currently studying the book, *We Make the Road by Walking*, by Brian McLaren.

**Young children** are invited to “Children’s Church” during worship service.

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### ***The Church Mouse***

Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Deadline, 28th day of the month

### **First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

**Rev. Elizabeth Stone, Pastor**

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# November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  Choir Rehearsal 6:50-8:10	2	3	4
5) Daylight Saving Time Ends 9:30 Adult I and II Sunday School 11:00 Worship-Communion. All Saints Day Service	6) 9:30 Morning Circle 6:30 Nite Circle	7	8  Choir Rehearsal 6:50-8:10	9	10	11
12) 9:30 Adult I and II Sunday School 2nd Sunday supplies 11:00 Worship Buckhorn Benefit	13	14	15 5:30 Session  Choir Rehearsal 6:50-8:10	16	17	18
19) 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship. Congregational Meeting. Fellowship lunch to launch holidays	20	21	22  Choir Rehearsal 6:50-8:10	24 		25
26) 9:30 Sunday School Noisy offering 11:00 Worship Decorate sanctuary for Advent	27	28	29  Choir Rehearsal 6:50-8:10	30		

December 3, First Sunday in Advent



# Advent

## DECEMBER 2023 Planning Calendar

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

					1 I 2	2
3 First Sunday in Advent Hanging of the Greens Light first candle	4 Circle Meetings	5	6 6:50-8:10 Rehearsal for "Gloria" Cantata	7	8	9
10) Second Sunday in Advent. Light 2nd candle. Live Wires Outing	11	12	13 6:50-8:10 Rehearsal for "Gloria" Cantata	14	15	16) Special Cantata Rehearsal 10:00-11:30
17) Third Sunday in Advent Light 3rd candle	18	19	20 6:50-8:10 Rehearsal for "Gloria" Cantata	21	22	23
24) Christmas Eve 11 am Choir Cantata. Light 4th candle. 6 pm candle-light Service of Lessons & Carols. Light Christ candle.	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29	30
31						